



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Bernalillo County, NM

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

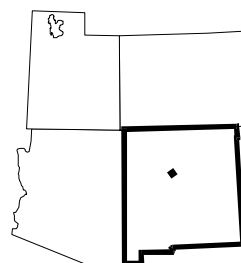
EPA has selected Bernalillo County for a Brownfields Pilot. Bernalillo County is bisected by the Rio Grande and bordered by the Sandia Mountains. The County's population is 518,031, of which 44.4% are minorities and 24% live below the poverty level. Due to a long history of industrial and commercial activity, the area contains hundreds of vacant or abandoned sites with known or perceived contamination. These brownfields are located in a region of shallow groundwater connected to a deeper sole-source aquifer that provides drinking water for Albuquerque and most of the County.

The Pilot has targeted two areas: the South Valley of Bernalillo County, adjacent to the Rio Grande, and the North Valley, an area adjacent to downtown Albuquerque that includes Albuquerque's historic transportation and commercial corridor.

OBJECTIVES

The County will develop an inventory of sites, develop a methodology to promote redevelopment, and begin characterization of the highest-priority sites. The County plans to link the Pilot with the many other innovative environmental programs being implemented by the County.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Bernalillo County,
New Mexico*

Date of Announcement:
July 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets the North and South Valleys of Bernalillo County, near downtown Albuquerque, for assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment.

Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 6
(214) 665-6736

Visit the EPA Region 6 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/bfpages/sfbfhome.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Creating a Brownfields Advisory Committee to involve local government, businesses, and surrounding neighborhoods in the planning process. The Committee will develop guidelines for characterization, risk assessment, and cleanup levels;
- Creating an inventory system to identify brownfields sites. The community will be involved in developing a ranking system methodology and selecting priority sites;
- Characterizing existing contamination at priority sites through Phase I and II environmental assessments; and
- Developing site-specific cleanup and redevelopment plans.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.